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21 December 1953

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Research 2

TO : Assistant Director, Research and Reports
FROM : Assistant Director, Current Intelligence
SUBJECT : CIA/RR IP-342, "Trends in Economic Policy of the USSR Since 1945"
REFERENCE: Memorandum to AD/CI from AD/RR, 25 August 1953

1. The Indications Staff of OCI has just completed an intensive study of ORR Project 0.12, "Trends in the Economic Policy of the USSR since 1945," which was transmitted under ORR memorandum dated 25 August 1953.

2. The Staff found the reports of the various ORR Branches extremely useful in preliminary efforts to reconstruct post-war Soviet economic policy. Five of the individual branch submissions deserve special mention for their excellent handling of the problem; they are those on Consumers' Goods and Internal Financial Policies, Construction, the Aviation Industry, the Chronology of Trade Policy Events and Iron and Steel.

3. Some very interesting and important indications of trends have been brought to light by the information contained in the reports. On the other hand, it appears to us that certain of the reports contain possible contradictions and anomalies which deserve further examination. In order to verify the most important indicated trends, and to resolve the apparent contradictions and anomalies, the Indications Staff wishes to investigate the more detailed background of some of the information presented in project 0.12.

4. You will recall that the original paper was to be considered a preliminary report on a subject which is of continuing interest. As the Indications Staff progresses further in its reconstruction of post-war Soviet economic policy, further data from ORR would be extremely helpful in determining whether past economic policy can be utilized from an indications standpoint in interpreting current economic developments in the Soviet Orbit. With your approval, further inquiries under 0.12 can be carried out through ORR's Current Intelligence Support Group, which has been a very helpful channel for satisfying OCI's recurring need for economic intelligence support.

HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON

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